



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

March 9, 2009

Ms. Donna Vigil, Executive Director  
WMAT Division of Health Programs  
Post Office Box 1210  
Whiteriver, Arizona 85941

Dear Ms. Vigil,

We are writing to submit for approval consideration a data collection and reporting request on behalf of future First Things First grantees. As a component for being awarded a First Things First grant, grantees would be required to submit regular performance information on the progress of the programs they are implementing. Understanding that the White Mountain Apache Tribe owns all data collected within the reservation boundaries; and knowing the Tribal Health Board provides necessary approvals for any data collection relating to health programs and initiatives, First Things First is seeking the appropriate approvals *prior* to the awarding of any funds throughout the region.

**Relevance to the Community:** According to the U.S. Census, there are approximately 1,600 children residing within the boundaries of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. Of those, approximately 50% are at or below the federal poverty level. Although there are programs within the community that provide early childhood development and health services, there is not a system to ensure coordination and sustainability among all early childhood programs. First Things First would help build on the current services that are being offered while creating a sustainable system for children birth through age five and their families.

For your review, I am attaching the tentative evaluation measures that will be collected from potential First Things First grantees. Reporting of the measures will be on an aggregate level containing no identifiers of program participants. Additionally, First Things First would like permission to use the aggregate data for reporting purposes at the Regional and State levels.

We look forward to the continued support of the Division of Health Programs and the Tribal Health Board in improving the lives of our youngest community members.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Lacapa, MPH  
Regional Coordinator

cc: Tribal Health Board Members  
White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council Members

encl: Request for Data Collection- Performance Measures

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